

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Ruth Y. Goldway, Chairman;
Mark Acton, Vice Chairman;
Tony L. Hammond; and
Nanci E. Langley

Meridian Post Office
Meridian, New York

Docket No. A2011-66

NOTICE AND ORDER ACCEPTING APPEAL AND
ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

(Issued September 13, 2011)

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 404(d), on September 7, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Meridian post office in Meridian, New York. The petition was filed online by Beth Dishaw (Petitioner) who also requests an application for suspension of the determination. The Commission hereby institutes a proceeding under 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5) and establishes Docket No. A2011-66 to consider Petitioner's appeal. If Petitioner would like to further explain her position with supplemental information or facts, Petitioner may either file a Participant Statement on PRC Form 61 or file a brief with the Commission no later than October 12, 2011.

Categories of issues apparently raised. Petitioner contends that the Postal Service failed to consider the effect of the closing on the community. See 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(2)(A)(i).

After the Postal Service files the administrative record and the Commission reviews it, the Commission may find that there are more legal issues than the one set forth above, or that the Postal Service's determination disposes of one or more of those issues. The deadline for the Postal Service to file the applicable administrative record with the Commission is September 22, 2011. See 39 CFR 3001.113. In addition, the due date for any responsive pleading by the Postal Service to this Notice is September 22, 2011.

Application for Suspension of Determination. In addition to her Petition, Beth Dishaw requests an application for suspension of the Postal Service's determination (see 39 CFR 3001.114). Commission rules allow for the Postal Service to file an answer to such application within 10 days after the application is filed. The Postal Service shall file an answer to the application no later than September 19, 2011.

Availability; website posting. The Commission has posted the appeal and supporting material on its website at <http://www.prc.gov>. Additional filings in this case and participants' submissions also will be posted on the Commission's website, if provided in electronic format or amenable to conversion, and not subject to a valid protective order. Information on how to use the Commission's website is available online or by contacting the Commission's webmaster via telephone at 202-789-6873 or via electronic mail at prc-webmaster@prc.gov.

The appeal and all related documents are also available for public inspection in the Commission's docket section. Docket section hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., eastern time, Monday through Friday, except on Federal government holidays. Docket section personnel may be contacted via electronic mail at prc-dockets@prc.gov or via telephone at 202-789-6846.

Filing of documents. All filings of documents in this case shall be made using the Internet (Filing Online) pursuant to Commission rules 9(a) and 10(a) at the

Commission's website, <http://www.prc.gov>, unless a waiver is obtained. See 39 CFR 3001.9(a) and 3001.10(a). Instructions for obtaining an account to file documents online may be found on the Commission's website or by contacting the Commission's docket section at prc-dockets@prc.gov or via telephone at 202-789-6846.

The Commission reserves the right to redact personal information which may infringe on an individual's privacy rights from documents filed in this proceeding.

Intervention. Persons, other than Petitioner and respondent, wishing to be heard in this matter are directed to file a notice of intervention. See 39 CFR 3001.111(b). Notices of intervention in this case are to be filed on or before October 11, 2011. A notice of intervention shall be filed using the Internet (Filing Online) at the Commission's website unless a waiver is obtained for hardcopy filing. See 39 CFR 3001.9(a) and 3001.10(a).

Further procedures. By statute, the Commission is required to issue its decision within 120 days from the date it receives the appeal. See 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5). A procedural schedule has been developed to accommodate this statutory deadline. In the interest of expedition, in light of the 120-day decision schedule, the Commission may request the Postal Service or other participants to submit information or memoranda of law on any appropriate issue. As required by the Commission rules, if any motions are filed, responses are due 7 days after any such motion is filed. See 39 CFR 3001.21.

It is ordered:

1. The Postal Service shall file an answer to the application for suspension of the Postal Service's determination no later than September 19, 2011.
2. The Postal Service shall file the applicable administrative record regarding this appeal no later than September 22, 2011.

3. Any responsive pleading by the Postal Service to this Notice is due no later than September 22, 2011.
4. The procedural schedule listed below is hereby adopted.
5. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, Cassandra L. Hicks is designated officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public.
6. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this Notice and Order in the *Federal Register*.

By the Commission.

Shoshana M. Grove
Secretary

PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

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| September 7, 2011 | Filing of Appeal |
| September 22, 2011 | Deadline for the Postal Service to file the applicable administrative record in this appeal |
| September 22, 2011 | Deadline for the Postal Service to file any responsive pleading |
| October 11, 2011 | Deadline for notices to intervene (see 39 CFR 3001.111(b)) |
| October 12, 2011 | Deadline for Petitioner's Form 61 or initial brief in support of the petition (see 39 CFR 3001.115(a) and (b)) |
| November 1, 2011 | Deadline for answering brief in support of the Postal Service (see 39 CFR 3001.115(c)) |
| November 16, 2011 | Deadline for reply briefs in response to answering briefs (see 39 CFR 3001.115(d)) |
| November 23, 2011 | Deadline for motions by any party requesting oral argument; the Commission will schedule oral argument only when it is a necessary addition to the written filings (see 39 CFR 3001.116) |
| January 5, 2012 | Expiration of the Commission's 120-day decisional schedule (see 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5)) |